

SECURES BEST MEN TO REPRESENT HIM

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Discusses His Responsibility in Strike Region.

MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN

Gives His Views of Labor Conditions in Testimony Before House Committee.

Washington, April 6.—John D. Rockefeller, Jr., sociologist and philanthropist, who has been in the Colorado coal mine strike region, was asked today by a House investigating committee: "What have you done to end this Colorado coal strike?"

"I have done nothing practically," said Mr. Rockefeller. "So long as we have officers there, we trust them and let them handle the situation. I have taken a deep interest in the situation. We have large sums of money invested there, and the existing conditions have been of grave concern to us. All we can do is to keep in touch with our officers representing us. When we believe they are not doing what is right, it is our duty to take the matter up."

Mr. Rockefeller admitted he did not know what wages were paid his Colorado coal mine employees, but had been informed by trusted officers, "they received as high or higher wages than paid to similar workmen by other employers, and if this is shown to be untrue, I will have nothing further to do with the man who has made his report to us."

"This strike will cost our company \$1,000,000," estimated Mr. Rockefeller.

Men Ought to Be Protected.

Mr. Rockefeller said he did not know that machine guns and armed detectives had been sent into the striking Colorado district to intimidate the miners. "If I had anything to say on that subject, I should say that our men ought to be protected," announced Mr. Rockefeller with squared chin.

"I would tell our officers to protect our men, I would not tell them how to protect—just protect."

"Did your officers authorize the purchase of machine guns and the hiring of detectives to use on strikers?" demanded Chairman Foster, of the Mines and Mining Committee.

"I do not know; that would be left to the officers," said Mr. Rockefeller, quietly.

"Are you a dummy director?" suddenly demanded Mr. Foster.

"I do not so regard myself. A director's duty is to find the ablest men possible to operate the business, and trust them so long as they are worthy of trust."

Cross-examined by the committee,

Mr. Rockefeller admitted he had not attended a meeting of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company directors for years, and had no reason for visiting the Colorado property during the past ten years.

One Dividend in Ten Years.

The company, he said, had declared a 35 per cent dividend in 1913, but this was the only dividend in ten years. On the board of directors he listed as "indirect representatives" of the Rockefeller interests, L. M. Bowers, J. F. Weiborn, J. H. McKenney, Starr J. Murphy and Jerome B. Green.

Mr. Rockefeller outlined his father's holdings in the securities of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company thus:

Common stock, 125,807 out of 342,255 shares; preferred stock, 7,242 shares out of 26,000 shares. Bonds: Colorado Industrial Company, 5 per cent \$14,159,000 out of \$32,437,000.

Other holdings were Colorado Fuel and Iron Company general 5 per cent \$365,000 out of \$5,635,000.

Mr. Rockefeller was untroubled by the sarcastic comments of his investigators, and his answers were suave and uncommittal when it came to demands for intimate information as to the relations between the Rockefeller interests, business management and its employees.

"I conduct my business," he answered.

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nounced, "as I and my father conduct our philanthropies. We get the best men possible to handle the details, and uphold them so long as they are trustworthy."

Chairman Foster interrupted this explanation by saying: "You are connected with sociological and uplift movements, and you were recently the foreman of a grand jury which reported upon the white slave traffic. Under the circumstances, do you not think you might have paid some personal attention to these bloody strike conditions out in Colorado, where you have 10,000 employees in whose welfare you seem not to have taken any deep personal interest?"

No Personal Investigation.

"Allow me to answer you," said Mr. Rockefeller, "by pointing out to the committee that when I was interested in investigating the white slave conditions in New York, I did not make a personal investigation of all forms of vice. I would not know how to do so, but we employed the best possible men in the world for this. And so, when we have investigations to carry on in Colorado, we rely on a man whom we believe to be better fitted for it than any one else in the world."

"In these days when business interests are so diversified and directors are members of so many boards, the best they can do is to appoint officers and hold them responsible."

Discussing labor conditions, Mr. Rockefeller said he believed "free American citizens should have the right to choose the employer for whom they shall work, and the conditions under which they shall work."

Sixty per cent of the employees of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, Mr. Rockefeller said, were nonunion men, who had no difficulties with the officers of the company. He said that he could not see no reason why these men should be forced to join a union, and pay union dues, by the other 10 per cent.

"What is your opinion as to the relation of employer and employee?" asked Chairman Foster.

"I believe that the employer and the employee are fellowmen, and should treat each other as such."

"If I thought I were not conscientiously doing my duty, I should, of course, at once resign, but my conscience entirely acquits me in this case."

Rent Paid by Miners.

"Do you know what rent your miners pay for the homes you give them?" asked Chairman Foster.

"I do not," said Mr. Rockefeller.

"Do you know that they are not allowed to own their homes?"

"I don't know anything about it."

"Don't you think that as a man who represents many millions on your

board of directors, you ought to know something about these things?"

"I do not think it is possible," said Mr. Rockefeller. "I do not think these miners ought to be allowed to own their homes, as it is an incentive."

Mr. Rockefeller said that if miners had a ten or twenty years contract, it would be all right for them to own their homes, but he suggested, that mine work is uncertain.

"Have your officers ever reported to you that the men wanted to buy their homes?" he replied.

Mr. Rockefeller's examination was concluded with his promise to submit directors' reports of the Colorado company's meetings to the committee, together with any resolution concerning the strike as might have been adopted, but of which Mr. Rockefeller disclaimed knowledge.

DELEGATES LEAVE FOR CONVENTION

Superintendent Stearnes Unable to Attend Conference on Education.

A number of leaders in educational work in Virginia left yesterday for Louisville to attend the conference for Education in the South which will open in that city today. The convention met in Richmond last year, and attracted a large number of delegates. Among those going from Richmond yesterday were Mrs. B. B. Munford, president of the State Co-operative Education Association; Dr. S. C. Mitchell, president of the Medical College of Virginia; Dr. A. C. Chandler, superintendent of city schools; Jackson Davis, State supervisor of colored schools; E. E. Worrell, State school inspector; J. H. Binford, secretary of the Co-operative Education Association, and others.

R. C. Stearnes, Superintendent of Public Instruction, was unable to attend the conference this year because of the pressure of office duties. Committees of the State Board of Education have concluded the hearings on the selection of books for use in the public schools of the State. The State Board of Education meets on April 20 for official action on the book selection, bids having been invited, returnable on April 15.

A conference in regard to the William and Mary College summer school was held yesterday in the office of Superintendent Stearnes, after which it was announced that the college would hold summer courses at Dublin, Pa., and at the University of Virginia.

The location and directors for the State summer normal schools were announced yesterday by the State Department of Public Instruction, as follows: University of Virginia, Charles G. Maphis; Harrisonburg, Julian A. Burrows; Farmville, J. L. Jarmann; Cricksburg, E. H. Russell; Radford, J. M. McConkey; Lexington, Joseph H. Saunders; Martinsville, N. P. Hunter; Richmond, J. A. C. Chandler; Emory, F. E. Fitzpatrick; Norfolk, James Hurst; Dublin, John W. Michie; Galax, J. A. Livesay; Luray, J. D. Harris.

For colored teachers—Richmond, George G. Chase; City, F. C. Redinger; Lawrenceville, James G. Russell; Christiansburg, E. A. Long; Hampton, George F. Phoenix; Manassas, William J. Decatur.

POSTPONE INQUEST INTO BOY'S DEATH

Young Women May Testify That Police Chauffeur Was Driving Fast.

The inquest into the death of Thomas Goode, the twelve-year-old colored boy who was struck and killed by the police patrol, driver, W. H. Metcalf, on Saturday afternoon, was deferred yesterday by Coroner Taylor until tomorrow.

New witnesses, in the persons of Miss Helen Stevens, daughter of George W. Stevens, of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway; Miss Mary Moulton, Miss Essie Archer and Miss Virginia Moulton, were found yesterday by the coroner, and will be summoned to the inquest and to the Police Court hearing.

It is said that the young women will testify that Chauffeur Metcalf was operating the patrol automobile at a

rapid rate when the accident occurred. Goode was struck near the corner of Thirteenth and Marshall Streets, as Metcalf was on his way to take some lamps to the safety zone at Seventh and Broad Streets. The chauffeur stated that he jumped from the automobile and ran down before he had time to stop the heavy machine. W. H. Stokes, colored, of 502 North Thirteenth Street, stated to Major Werner and Detective-Sergeant Wiltshire that the accident seemed to him to be unavoidable.

After the accident the body was removed to the undertaking rooms of Brown Brothers, 329 North Seventeenth Street, where a quarrel arose as to who had the first claim on it. Claims were put in by W. F. Johnson, of 10 West Leigh Street, and A. D. Price, of 219 East Leigh Street. Brown Brothers claimed the right of burial because they had buried another of the Goode family. The service was placed in his hands by the dead boy's mother.

SOME EXCITING NEWS!

BEN HECK CAME IN AND PAID HIS SUBSCRIPTION THIS MORNING. BEN INFORMS US THAT HE HAS MADE A LOT OF IMPROVEMENTS LATELY. HE'S PAINTED HIS HOUSE, GOT AN AUTOMOBILE, AND NOW HE SMOKES

AMUSEMENTS.

Elmo—Grace Scott Company in "St. Elmo," matinee and night.

Lyric—Keith Vaudeville, matinee and night.

Colonial—Vaudeville and pictures.

"St. Elmo" Warmly Welcomed.

Judging from the warmth with which "St. Elmo" was received a few weeks ago and from the enthusiastic welcome which was accorded to "St. Elmo" upon its opening performance at the Elmo last night, one would say that Mr. Newing has only to present Miss Scott and her fellow players in "St. Elmo" in order to attain for them, and for himself, the very crest of popularity's wave, upon which they are already riding high.

Indeed, after "St. Elmo" there is little left in the way of sorrow and tears of lofty purpose and high endeavor, of noble sentiment and sacrificial striving, except "East Lynne." All that is left is to be a good man, a good woman, a good father, a good mother, a good son, a good daughter, a good friend, a good neighbor, a good citizen, a good Christian.

In "St. Elmo" there is some pretty heavy stuff, it must be admitted. Who does not remember the little barefooted Edna Earl, poor and ragged, but, oh, so noble, as she talks just like a beautiful lady, and who, with her wicked man who has shot one other poor man to death who shot up in the air when she violated the laws of man and humanity by fighting each other in an awful duel right in front of the blacksmith shop, and then spoke such hard words to her tired old grandfather, who tried to protect the sad lady who was the unfortunate sweetheart of the wicked man, that the wicked man shot to death in front of the blacksmith shop that he just kind of burst his heart and crinkled up and fell down and died right there in front of the blacksmith shop?

Everybody remembers it, all of it, and everybody loves it. The only trouble about it this time is that it makes Mr. Warner not to be such a horrid man who won't shake hands with you and forgive the poor man that he had just shot to death in front of the blacksmith shop, and who, when he was finally dead he just walks off with his hat on laughing out loud, though everybody else is solemn and serious about the killing in front of the blacksmith shop, and after little Edna Earl has come to live with St. Elmo's mother, who is really Mrs. Murray, which is his last name, too—not Mrs. though—he tries to whip a poor old colored man with a long whip, and little Edna Earl has to take it away from him and throw it out of the window against a piece of scenery out in the back yard.

But, of course, Mr. Warner isn't that kind of a man at all really, and he goes away for a long time, and he comes back in a long black coat, and he is so sorry about killing the man in front of the blacksmith shop, and he falls in love with Edna Earl, and Edna Earl says a whole lot of beautiful things about him, and he marries him and all, and says, "And now you see why I can't marry you," and starts to walk away all sad and teary, but when she gets about a yard away, something tells her that she better had, and she turns right around and says, "I love you," and then Mr. Warner takes her right in his arms, and it ends just beautifully, with the curtain falling slowly and all the people laughing, but that they are laughing, but all the time they are crying.

Douglas Gordon.

Best Big Act Ever Seen at Lyric.

Despite the fact that several of the smaller acts at the Lyric this week are especially good, the big act is so big and so extraordinarily good that the others seem small and dim in comparison with it. It is a miniature musical comedy, beauty show and "Polka" presented by B. A. Rolfe, called "The Bride Shop," and it makes every one of the offerings of the famous Mr. Lasky seem here look like an old woman's home.

The act is brand-new, spick and span, and the costumes are of the style of the day after to-morrow, while from their freshness they might have been made yesterday. And "freshness"

isn't a bad word, for one tableau, or series of tableaux, is fresh to the point of rawness and tainted by accompanying comments. The "Follies" taught us something about the human form divine, but "The Bride Shop" teaches us something new in costumes—not dresses, not "creations," but just costumes, whose description is impossible as well as out of place in this column.

But, leaving that daring feature aside, the act is full of interest. Andrew Fumbers, who heads the cast, is an extremely clever comedian; Lola Wentworth has a lovely voice—when she sings softly and on the key; Basil Lynn is a competent actor; Edna Britton is a dashing Spanish girl, and of the eight chorists, several are handsome, and Mr. Rolfe has provided them with gowns—not the flimsy things referred to above, but are beautiful enough to carry the act by themselves, to say nothing of the amazing colored wigs, which thus make their first public appearance in Richmond. Many of the lines are witty, much of the business is amusing, and most of the music is melodious.

Altogether, "The Bride Shop" is far and away the best "big act" that has been seen at the Lyric since its opening.

Montague's Cockatoos open the bill entertainingly; Carl Hyal and Dora Early would shine on any other program by reason of the girl's contortionist arms, wrists and hands, to say nothing of her near-baritone voice and the man's pleasing work; Jack Kennedy & Company offer a farce sketch that seems to amuse the audience; Bert Hanlon appears; Armstrong & Clark score a decided hit after the tiresome monologue is over and they have gone to work in their own line, and Redford & Winchester present a juggling turn that is too good to use as a closer.

D. C.

At the Colonial.

Of the two acts shown at the Colonial last night, no one stood out as the headliner, because they were all upon an even plane of merit.

The rapids with which Lightning Weston's crayon sketches were executed made them a highly acceptable novelty, and the singing and violin playing of Livingstone and Fields were well received. Credit must be given to this team for winning the approval of the house without resorting to ragtime.

Dean and Fay offered a flirtatious comedy skit that filled the requirements for which it was created—it made the audience laugh. And this feat was also accomplished by Petrie and Budd, two "nut" comedians.

Valotte and May, the cleverest "double act" seen at the Colonial in months, performed a number of original and remarkable feats of teeth balancing.

T. M.

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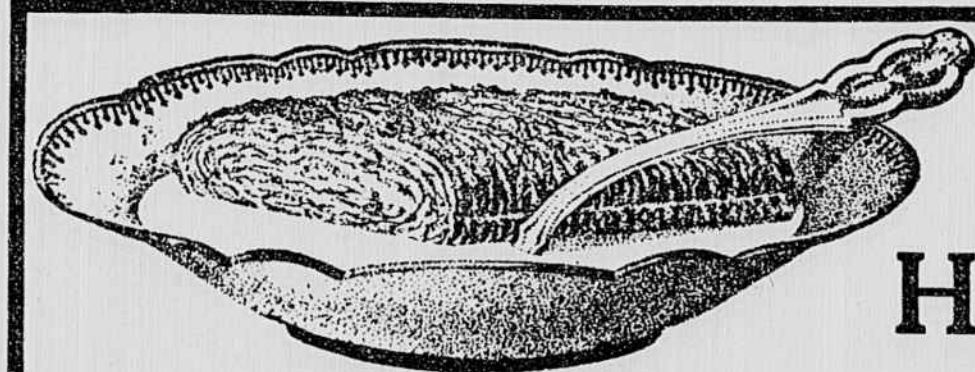
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